



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

MT

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/087,657	03/01/2002	Bryan D. Bigsby	3191E-000028	7892

27572 7590 05/23/2003

HARNESS, DICKEY & PIERCE, P.L.C.
P.O. BOX 828
BLOOMFIELD HILLS, MI 48303

EXAMINER

REILEY III, DONALD C

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

3726

S

DATE MAILED: 05/23/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/087,657

Applicant(s)

BIGSBY, BRYAN D.

Examiner

Don C Reiley III

Art Unit

3726

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 June 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter, which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 4, 6, 9 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The relationship of the U-bolt with the fastener set recited in claim 1 is not clear. Also, the first, third and fourth apertures are defined as associated with the axle, but only the second aperture is associated with the bottom plate. Not clear how a U-bolt can attach to this structure. Apparently the plate should include the fourth aperture.

Claim 6, line 2 recites the limitation 'fasteners'. The antecedent basis for this limitation in claim.1 recites 'fastener'.

Claim 9, line 2 recites the limitation "second engagement face" which lacks proper antecedent basis.

Claims 9 and 10 recite the limitation "second U-bolt" which lacks proper antecedent basis.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Art Unit: 3726

Claims 1-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Calvert in view of Hamlet. Calvert teaches –Figures 1 to 3 and col.3, lines 32 to 40 and lines 48 to 61- attaching axle 20 onto the top surface of leaf spring assembly 12 by means of mounting bracket 22 and two U-bolts 36 which extend through four apertures of bottom plate 40 and are secured by nuts 38, but Calvert does not teach any apertures associated with the mounting bracket 22 for the U-bolts. Hamlet teaches –Figures 2 and 6; col.2, lines 57 to 65; and col.3, line 61 to col.4, line 6 - attaching axle 34 onto leaf spring assembly 38 by inserting U-bolts first through apertures in plate 70 associated with axle 34 and then through apertures 80 in plate 67 and finally securing the U-bolts. It is noted that elements 70 and 67 are related to elements 22 and 40, respectively, in Calvert. Accordingly, it would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the teachings of Calvert by employing apertures for the U-bolts in the bracket associated with the axle as, for example, taught by Hamlet in order to enhance structural stability.

Regarding claim 2, see lead line 72 in Hamlet.

Regarding claim 6, it is well known to use washers with nuts as shown in order to distribute pressure and increase securement and the examiner takes Official Notice to this position.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Don C Reiley III whose telephone number is (703) 305-5042. The examiner can normally be reached on m-thr 9:30AM TO 6:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gregory Vidovich can be reached on (703) 308-1513. The fax phone numbers for

Application/Control Number: 10/087,657

Page 4


Art Unit: 3726

the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 308-7769 for regular communications and (703) 308-7769 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1148.

DCR

May 15, 2003


GREGORY VIDOVICH
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3700